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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Jennifer China

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May 29, 2003

Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 3728

LIPSCOMB ET AL.

Examiner: J. G. Pickett

APPLICATION NO: 09/942,347

FILED: SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

FOR: TEXTURED CONTACT LENS PACKAGE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

The Office Action of December 4, 2002 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on March 4, 2003. A three-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation in the amount of \$ 920 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation Patent and Trademark Dept. One Health Plaza East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Date: May 29, 2003

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Respectfully submitted

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